

September. In June, *R. sericealis* was recorded every night except the 22nd, 24th and 26th. After 27 June, the next example was recorded on 18 July and, with a slight faltering at the start and end of the sequence, appeared nightly until 24 August. Then, after a gap of 25 days, on 17 September a further specimen was noted, followed by others on the next four nights and 26 September producing a total of 14 moths, a figure that may not accurately reflect the true strength of this probable third brood. After 11 September, only one m.v. light was operated, instead of two, while 19 September initiated a long period of cold, clear nights on which species numbers fell from 20 by 25% to 40% with a corresponding fall in numbers of individuals. Also, after 11 September, the light was operated only from 17 to 21 September inclusive, 26 and 30 September, 1 October and then 8 October to the end of that month. The year 2003, like 1988 and 1989, was a year of comparative abundance for *R. sericealis*, while over the 34 years since 1969 this species has, in general, been erratic in appearance; 2003 is the fifth year in succession with recordings being well above average.

Probable third generation moths have occurred as singletons well after the second brood appeared to have ended. These are listed below together with their last previous appearance in that year.

Date in year	Year	last preceding record in that year
10 October	1971	29 August
13 September	1984	21 August
12 September	1987	23 August
26 September	1988	10 September*
4 October	1988	26 September*
10 October	1997	27 August
11 October	2001	27 August
1 October	2002	29 August

\* = same year

A number of moths appear to produce occasional specimens to be recorded long after the second brood seems over. Examples includes *Ectropis bistortata*, (Goeze), *Selenia dentaria* (Fabr.) and *Idaea seriata* Schrank. In 2003, *R. sericealis* may have improved on this at Dartford.— B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Dartford, Kent DA5 2HN.

### Two new butterfly records from the Greek island of Corfu in May 2003

During our stay on Corfu from 25 to 31 May 2003, we recorded 51 species of butterfly. Based on the checklist in Parker (1996, *Bull. Amat. Ent. Soc.* **55**: 175-183, 254-255), in which he listed the 78 species recorded from Corfu, it would appear that two of our species are new for the island. The first of these was *Satyrium acaciae* (Fabr.), of which we found two fresh males – one at Episepsi at 275 metres above

sea level on 26 May and another at Lafki, at 400 metres on 28 May. These were both taken flying among many *S. ilicis* (Esper) and the fact that two were *acaciae* was not realised until they were set on returning home. The second species *Cyanaris semiargus* Rott., of which a single worn female was taken 480 metres above sea level at Santa on 27 May. These localities are in the Pantokrator Massif, where another 49 species were also recorded.— D. HALL, 5 Curborough Road, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS13 TNG, P. J. C. RUSSELL, Oakmeadow, Wessex Avenue, East Wittering, West Sussex PO20 8NP and R. MANDZIEJEWICZ, 12 Charlemont Road, Walsall, West Midlands WS5 3NG.

### Vanessids in 2003

What a season it has been for Vanessids. I do not recall anything like it since the end of the 2nd World War, when I began observing butterflies. Five vanessid species have been regular visitors to my garden over the summer and four of them were in large numbers, namely Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*, Painted Lady *V. cardui*, Peacock *Inachis io* and Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae*. Only the Comma *Polygonia c-album* occurred in low numbers, one or two each day. Previous worries about the population decline of the Small Tortoiseshell have been “knocked on the head”. There have been thousands of adult butterflies and uncountable numbers of larvae of this species throughout Cambridgeshire.

The Painted Lady was possibly the commonest butterfly of the year. They were everywhere. On most sunny days one could find approximately 20 in my small back garden and about 10 in my front garden. Apart from feeding on *Buddleia* flowers, they were often sunning themselves on the concrete paths. The large *Buddleia* bushes growing in the sidings of Cambridge Railway Station were shimmering with thousands of butterflies, mainly Painted Ladies, as were bushes in the centre of the city.

The season was made memorable for me by the capture, on 14 July, in my front garden of a fine example of *V. cardui* ab. *rogeri* Meilhan. The weather had been excessively hot and one must assume that this individual had been positioned as a chrysalis in direct sunlight, thus causing it to overheat. It will be interesting to learn if other unusual forms have been taken by readers during this exceptionally hot summer.— L. McLEOD, 22 Maris Green, Great Shelford, Cambridge CB2 5EE.

### *Crambus silvella* (Hb.) (Lep. Pyralidae) new to Devon

During a visit by the Devon Moth Group to Offwell Woodland and Wildlife Trust site on 5 August 2003, a single example of the pyralid moth *Crambus silvella* came to the light-trap that was being operated by Brian Bewsher. The following day he brought the moth to me and it was soon identified it as *C. silvella* after pinning and spreading the wings. Bernard Skinner, who was visiting me at the time, verified my identification.